

Mr. Speaker, these are just a couple of examples of the kinds of the consequences to real communities if we fail to act. I again urge the leadership of the Congress to move the extension of the county payments bill on the next available legislative vehicle. Let's keep our promise to these local governments and reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act before it's too late.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his work and his help in the Rules Committee and on this issue.

You have been most diligent and most helpful and we appreciate your comments tonight. Harney County Judge Steve Grasty has said, "Loss of this program means losing future opportunities for young people here and in rural counties across America." We have comments like that, and I am sure Peter does as well, from every county that is affected, every school superintendent who is trying now to work with their school boards to figure out who stays, who goes, what gets cut, what gets left behind, and what do we do to help rural kids keep up in a school system that is going to be devastated by the loss of these dollars.

This is a national problem. These are national lands. National policy determines what happens on these lands, and you can see by the reduction in Federal timber receipts, one of the outcomes of Federal policy has been near elimination of receipts, which has brought us to this legislation, which now is expired. And I appreciate the work of my colleague from the Fourth District of Washington as we work to reauthorize this to keep the Federal Government's promise to rural schools, rural roads, rural counties, and our Federal forestlands.

And I yield to my colleague.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, again just to reiterate, 4,400 school districts across America, I believe, of more than 800 counties are impacted. Critical law enforcement, public safety, search and rescue services, road maintenance services, schools, school class size, school infrastructure, all these things are on the cutting block. Benton County in my district tried a levy. It failed. Again, the cuts will be targeted at law enforcement and the sheriffs' offices. That is the biggest part of the general fund for virtually all my counties. They have no choice.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. I am told our time is about up. I just appreciate your help and that of our colleagues.

I would encourage all of our colleagues who are listening tonight, help us pass H.R. 17. Help us keep the promise to these rural people who are surrounded in their areas by Federal lands, which are gorgeous and we love them, but we need your help to deal with them.

Again, I thank all of our colleagues who came down at this very late hour on the East Coast to share their comments and concerns. And together we can keep the promise for America.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express support for full reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act.

My district in southwest Washington state is one of the 10 most forested districts in the entire country. Because so much of the land in my district is under the control of the Forest Service, counties in my district like Lewis, Skamania, and Cowlitz rely on the Secure Rural Schools program. They are among 27 counties in Washington state that rely on funds of over \$40 million a year.

These communities do not want to rely on this program, but a long series of events have left them without recourse.

For decades, heavily forested counties could rely on 25 percent of revenue generated by timber harvest in our federal forests. National Forests cannot be taxed locally, so this was a fair exchange. As timber harvest plummeted in the 1980s and 1990s, these local governments were left with barely enough funds to operate essential government services, including schools. The 2000 Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act saved these communities from dying off. It has allowed them to hire teachers, keep libraries open, and provide the services that many of us take for granted.

And Secure Rural Schools is about more than county payments. The program also authorizes Resource Advisory Councils and designates 15 percent to 20 percent of the county payments towards these Councils, known as RACs. RACs bring together members of the community including environmentalists, labor groups, and local elected officials to collaborate on necessary forestry projects. These forestry projects include preventive thinning that limits the danger of fires in our forests. Over 9 million acres of land burned in fires in 2006. Collaborative efforts to prevent this damage are a model that needs to be refined and expanded. That can only happen if we continue funding the program.

For the 780 counties, 4,400 school districts, and millions of Americans affected by this program, I implore my colleagues to help reauthorize and fund the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. If we fail to reauthorize this critical program, counties in my district will see their school district budgets cut by more than 40 percent, community programs and services will be slashed, and jobs will be lost.

We must act now.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARNEY). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2255

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARDOZA) at 10 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 63, IRAQ WAR RESOLUTION

Ms. SLAUGHTER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-12) on the resolution (H. Res. 157) providing for consideration of the bill (H. Con. Res. 63) disapproving of the decision of the President announced on January 10, 2007, to deploy more than 20,000 additional United States combat troops to Iraq, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CRAMER (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of a death in the family.

Mr. EDWARDS (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of medical reasons.

Mr. KAGEN (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of travel problems.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for February 5 through February 16 on account of medical reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. COSTA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DUNCAN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MCHENRY, for 5 minutes, February 15.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, for 5 minutes, February 13.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and February 14, 15, and 16.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. KINGSTON, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 56 minutes

p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, February 13, 2007, at 9 a.m., for morning hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

588. A letter from the Administrator, Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Direct Single Family Housing Loans and Grants (RIN: 0575-AC54) received January 12, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

589. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children Program (RIN: 0906-AA70) received January 29, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

590. A letter from the Chief of Immigration Unit, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Board of Immigration Appeals: Composition of Board and Temporary Board Members [EOIR Docket No. 1581] (RIN: 1125-AA57) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

591. A letter from the Federal Register Certifying Office, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Administrative Offset Under Reciprocal Agreements With States (RIN: 1510-AB09) received January 9, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

592. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulation Policy & Mgt., VA, Department of Veteran's Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Accrued Benefits (RIN: 2900-AM28) received December 29, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

593. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Ruling and determination letters (Rev. Proc. 2007-8) received January 5, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

594. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Last-in, First-out inventories (Rev. Rul. 2007-6) received January 11, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

595. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Weighted Average Interest Rates Update [Notice 2007-12] received January 11, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

596. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Low-Income Housing Credit (Rev. Rul. 2007-5) received January 10, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

597. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Modification of the Substantial Assistance Rules [Notice 2007-13] received January 10, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. OBERSTAR. Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 342. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 555 Independence Street, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, as the "Rush Hudson Limbaugh, Sr., United States Courthouse", with amendments (Rept. 110-10). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 798. A bill to direct the Administrator of General Services to install a photovoltaic system for the headquarters building of the Department of Energy (Rept. 110-11). Referred to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Committee on Rules. House Resolution 157. Resolution providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 63) disapproving of the decision of the President announced on January 10, 2007, to deploy more than 20,000 additional United States combat troops to Iraq (Rept. 110-12). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. NORWOOD (for himself and Mr. DINGELL):

H.R. 979. A bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself and Mr. DUNCAN):

H.R. 980. A bill to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. JONES of Ohio (for herself and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 981. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt from the harbor maintenance tax certain commercial cargo loaded or unloaded at United States ports in the Great Lakes Saint Lawrence Seaway System; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LANTOS (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. DREIER, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H.R. 982. A bill to promote democratic values and enhance democracy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas (for himself and Mr. PICKERING):

H.R. 983. A bill to preserve local radio broadcast emergency and other services and to require the Federal Communications Commission to conduct a rulemaking for

that purpose; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WAXMAN (for himself and Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia):

H.R. 984. A bill to provide for reform in the operations of the executive branch; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. WAXMAN (for himself, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia):

H.R. 985. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to clarify which disclosures of information are protected from prohibited personnel practices; to require a statement in nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements to the effect that such policies, forms, and agreements are consistent with certain disclosure protections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mr. SHAYS, Ms. DeLAURO, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut):

H.R. 986. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Eightmile River in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. TANNER (for himself, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. GALLEGLY):

H.R. 987. A bill to endorse further enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and to facilitate the timely admission of new members to NATO, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 988. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5757 Tilton Avenue in Riverside, California, as the "Lieutenant Todd Jason Bryant Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BOREN (for himself and Mr. CHABOT):

H.R. 989. A bill to prevent undue disruption of interstate commerce by limiting civil actions brought against persons whose only role with regard to a product in the stream of commerce is as a lawful seller of the product; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. McKEON, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. KELLER):

H.R. 990. A bill to provide all low-income students with the same opportunity to receive a Pell Grant by eliminating the tuition sensitivity provision in the Pell Grant program; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. CAMPBELL of California:

H.R. 991. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals eligible for veterans health benefits to contribute to health savings accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. DeLAURO:

H.R. 992. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Federal Meat Inspection Act to require that food that contains product from a cloned animal